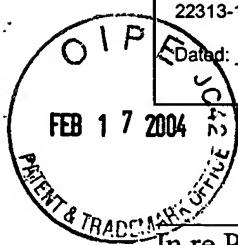


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 336624496 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Missing Parts, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 2/17/04 Signature: Tia B. Zimmerman
(Tia B. Zimmerman)



Docket No.: 306812002201
Client Ref.: A697 Cont.
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Brian D. JOHNSON et al.

Application No.: 10/650,465

Art Unit: 2819

Filed: August 27, 2003

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: USE OF DANGLING PARTIAL LINES FOR
INTERFACING IN A PLD

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry on this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.